

**To:** R7 Daily Digest INBOX[R7\_Daily\_Digest\_INBOX@epa.gov]  
**From:** Whitley, Christopher  
**Sent:** Wed 12/9/2015 9:12:41 PM  
**Subject:** OPA Daily Digest, 12/9/15

## **OPA Daily Digest – 12/09/15**

### **Upcoming EPA Region 7 Events by Division**

New additions noted with an asterisk

#### **RA:**

**12/8-9/15** - Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

**12/9/15** – ORD Tools Café, Regional Office, Contact: Brenda Groskinsky, 7188

**12/11/15** – Kansas Farmers Union State Convention, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**12/14/15** - Courtesy Visit with Rob Manes and John Cougher, The Nature Conservancy, Regional Office.  
Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**12/15/15** – Courtesy Visits, St. Louis Missouri. Contact: Curtis Carey, 7506.

**1/13-14/16** – Region 7/Region 8 Agriculture Directors Meeting, Kansas City, Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

#### **DRA:**

**12/8-9/15** - Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

**12/9/15** – ORD Tools Café, Regional Office, Contact: Brenda Groskinsky, 7188

**12/14/15** - Courtesy Visit with Rob Manes and John Cougher, The Nature Conservancy, Regional Office.  
Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**1/13-14/16** – Region 7/Region 8 Agriculture Directors Meeting, Kansas City, Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

**RA/Immediate Office**

None

**Other Events**

**AWMD**

**12/8-10/15** – 2015 National Capacity Development and Operator Certification Workshop with EPA and states, Dallas, Tex. Contact: Bob Dunlevy, 7798

**12/9/15** – Sysco Food Recovery and Sustainability presentation at WasteCap, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Lisa Thresher, 7964

**12/9/15** – Kansas City Environmental Educators Network Meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Jim Callier, 7646

**\*12/9/15** – Meeting with the Kansas City, Mo., and Shawnee Mission (Kan.) school districts regarding food recovery efforts at schools within those districts. Contact: Jim Callier, 7646

**12/10/15** - Mid-America Regional Council's Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383

**12/10/15** – Kick-off meeting for the Economy, Energy & Environment (E3) initiative in Iowa, IDNR offices, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Marcus Rivas, 7669

**12/10/15** – Kansas City Environmental Educators Food Recovery Team Meeting, MARC offices. Contact: Jim Callier, 7646

**12/10-12/15** – U.S. Department of Agriculture Northern Plains Regional Climate Hub and Department of the Interior Joint Stakeholders Committee Meeting, Fort Collins, Colo. Contact: Amy Shields, 7396

**12/11/15** – EPA's Clean Power Plan and Climate Change, Anita B Gorman Discovery Center, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Toni Gargas, 7193

**12/11/15** – Missouri Emergency Response Commission meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Terri Blunk, 7013

**12/11/15** – MARC Solid Waste District Meeting, Kauffman Foundation Conf. Center, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Jim Callier, 7646

**12/15/15** – Pollution Prevention programmatic/technical assistance visit, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Marcus Rivas, 7669

**12/16/15** – Executive Order 13650 Federal Inspector training, EPA Regional Office, Lenexa, Kan. Contact: George Hess, 7540

## **CNSL**

None

## **ECO**

**12/11/15** – EPA's Clean Power Plan and Climate Change, Anita B Gorman Discovery Center, Kansas

City, Mo. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094; Althea Moses, 7649

**12/14/15** – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

**12/15/2015** – Carter Carburetor Public Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Tamara Freeman, 7094

**12/18/2015** –Meeting with NEJAC Partner, Dennis Randolph, Grandview, Mo. Contact: Althea Moses, 7649

**12/18/15** – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

**1/6/16** – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

**1/11/16** – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

**1/14/16** – Missouri Waste Control Coalition, Discovery Center, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

## **ENST**

**12/8/15** – Attend public meeting on the new Medical Isotope (Mo-99) facility construction, Columbia. Mo. Purpose is to gauge public opinion and ensure NEPA compliance. Contact: Joe Summerlin, 7029.

**12/9/15** – ORD Tools Café, Regional Office. Contact: Brenda Groskinsky, 7188.

## **PLMG**

None

## **RA/OPA**

**12/11/15** – EPA's Clean Power Plan and Climate Change presentation to Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council, Anita B Gorman Discovery Center, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: David Bryan, 7433

## **SUPR**

**12/7-11/15** – On-Scene Coordinator Readiness Work Group and Academy Training Board meetings, Arlington, Va. Contact: Heath Smith, 636-326-4724.

**12/10/15** – Video teleconference with EPA HQ and Federal Emergency Management Agency to discuss ESF-10 briefing to Incident Management Assistance Teams, Regional Emergency Operations Center, Regional Office. Contact: Dave Williams, 7625.

**12/10/15** – Meeting with Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma stakeholders involved with the Tri-State Mining District Surface Water and Sediment Transport modeling to brief initial modeling results and plan future efforts addressing mining impacts on the Spring and Neosho River watersheds, Webb City, Mo. (Route 66 Event Center). Contact: Mark Doolan, 7169.

**12/10/15** – Meeting with Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality regarding 10th St. site, Hastings, Neb. Contact: Scott Marquess, 7131.

**\*12/15/15** – Carter Carburetor Stakeholders Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Adam Ruiz, 7926

**12/16-17/15** – FEMA Regional Incident Steering Committee (RISC) meeting at Region 7 Federal Emergency Management Agency, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dave Williams, 7625.

**\*12/17/15** – Executive Order 13650 Federal Inspector training, EPA Regional Office, Lenexa, Kan. Contact: Michael B. Davis, 7328

**12/14-18/15** — Removal assessment at the Citizens Gas & Electric Former Manufactured Gas Plant (FMGP) site in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Contact: Kevin Larson, 7808.

**\*12/14-18/15** – Leadership & Management of Surface Transportation Incidents training, Pueblo, Colo.. Contact: Heath Smith, 636-326-4724

## **WWPD**

**12/8-9/15** – Nebraska Health and Human Services Public Water System Supervision Quarterly Meeting to discuss work plan activities, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Ken Deason, 7585

**\*12/9/15** – Meet with Blackbird Bend Casino, Sioux City, Iowa, and WinnaVegas Casino, Sloan, Iowa, to Discuss Sampling Plans with Public Water Systems. Contact: Kim Burr, 7069

**12/8-10/15** – 2015 National Capacity Development and Operator Certification Workshop with EPA and states, Dallas, Tex. Contact: Bob Dunlevy, 7798

**\*12/10/15** – Missouri Department of Natural Resources Water Quality Standards Stakeholder Meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contacts: John DeLashmit, 7821, Bob Angelo, 7060

**12/10-12/15** – U.S. Department of Agriculture Northern Plains Regional Climate Hub and Department of the Interior Joint Stakeholders Committee Meeting, Fort Collins, Colo. Contact: Amy Shields, 7396

**\*1/11-15/16** – Iowa Department of Natural Resources Public Water System Program Review, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Gabrielle Thompson, 7569

## **Congressional Inquiries:**

**Rep. Ann Wagner** – 11/9/15 – Letter – Questions about West Lake Landfill site. Due: 11/24/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

## **State Government Inquiries:**

None

## **Press Inquiries:**

**KIOS 91.5, Omaha Public Radio** – Cheril Lee – 10/19/15 – Requests interview about the newly award Environmental Justice Small Grant to Together Incorporated of Metropolitan Omaha. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**Wall Street Journal** – John Emshwiller – 12/8/15 – Questions about the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Curtis Carey, 7506, and Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

**Greenwire** – Sam Pearson - 12/8/15 – Questions about the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Curtis Carey, 7506, and Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

**St. Louis American** – Rebecca Rivas – 12/8/15 – Questions about minority hiring requirements and the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

**Columbia Daily Tribune** – Jodie Jackson – 12/8/15 – Requested further information about the environmental education grant program. We are working with HQ. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (open)

**KCAU Channel 9, Sioux City, Iowa** – Andy Bottger – 12/9/15 – Questions about R7 RCRA investigation of Recycletronics in Sioux City, Iowa. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

**Associated Press, Kansas City** – Maria Sudeikum – 12/9/15 – Questions about standards for use of non-ferrous slag in construction fill. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

## Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

## Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

## Environmental Stories:

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch – West Lake cleanup hurt by weakening Superfund program, group says – 12/9/15** - A longtime environmental activist is calling for renewed attention to the country's 35-year-old toxic cleanup program, saying its neglect has caused years of inaction at the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton. [http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/west-lake-cleanup-hurt-by-weakening-superfund-program-group-says/article\\_2104b21b-ba37-5998-9aea-2a958417aa6f.html](http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/west-lake-cleanup-hurt-by-weakening-superfund-program-group-says/article_2104b21b-ba37-5998-9aea-2a958417aa6f.html)

**Dexter (Mo.) Daily Statesman – EPA Reverses Decision on Crop Dusting Spray – 12/9/15** - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is backpedaling its approval of a herbicide containing the same chemicals that allegedly sickened three people in the spring of 2015 near Wappapello, Mo. <http://www.dailystatesman.com/story/2257412.html>

**Greenwire – NEWSMAKER: Key player in EPA climate push takes charge at law institute – 12/8/15** - Scott Fulton took a bus trip through China five years ago with his U.S. EPA colleagues. Then EPA's general counsel, Fulton had asked to be dropped off to attend a meeting at a university, which greeted the bus with a life-sized poster of Fulton. <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060029071>

**The News-Leader, Springfield, Mo. – (GUEST OPINION) Long: The American energy sector is stronger and more responsible than advertised – 12/8/15** - Early this month, President Obama joined other world leaders for an environmental conference in Paris, where they engaged in energy policy talks aimed at lowering global greenhouse gas emissions. <http://www.news-leader.com/story/opinion/contributors/2015/12/08/long-american-energy-sector-stronger-responsible-advertised/77005346/>

**St. Louis American – More contaminated properties near Coldwater Creek, public meeting on Wednesday – 12/8/15** - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers found radioactive waste contamination in seven more properties near Coldwater Creek, said Corps representatives at a press conference on Monday. Coldwater Creek runs throughout North St. Louis County and is a tributary for the Missouri River. [http://www.stlamerican.com/news/local\\_news/article\\_0c06495c-9dd7-11e5-bc30-c7935ad0f69a.html](http://www.stlamerican.com/news/local_news/article_0c06495c-9dd7-11e5-bc30-c7935ad0f69a.html)



**A New Domain – Oklahoma, Earthquakes and Fracking: Why you should care – 12/8/15** - In this buckle of the Bible Belt, earthquakes are not Acts of God. And they seem to be multiplying. In the last seven years, there have been 5,000 earthquakes in the state of Oklahoma. That's new.

<http://anewdomain.net/2015/12/08/oklahoma-earthquakes-contaminated-water-fracking-connection/>

**Headlines and Global News – Uranium in Drinking Water Endangering Residents in Western U.S. – 12/9/15** - Increasing levels of uranium are contaminating the drinking water in the West. Reporters have investigated the situation in Central Valley in California as well as the Central Plains, discovering that not much has been done to let the public know about the health risk, the [Associated Press reported](#).

<http://www.hngn.com/articles/158469/20151209/uranium-drinking-water-endangering-residents-western-u-s.htm>

**NET (Nebraska Public Broadcasting) – Rest of the World Perplexed that Climate Debate Continues in the U.S. – 12/8/15** - At the U.N. climate summit in Paris, the U.S. has a big footprint. Cabinet officials scurry from meeting to meeting, trying to get a binding deal that would help some 200 countries slow the planet's warming. Yet in some ways, the United States is an outlier.

<http://www.netnebraska.org/node/1003035>

**AgriNews – Lawmakers, farmers disappointed by EPA's volume obligation levels for renewable fuels – 12/8/15** - Iowa lawmakers and farm leaders are disappointed by the EPA's final Renewable Fuel Standard volume obligation levels for 2014, 2015 and 2016.

[http://www.agrinews.com/news/iowa\\_news/lawmakers-farmers-disappointed-by-epa-s-volume-obligation-levels-for/article\\_48dca24e-d08f-507b-8cd4-72b31919992b.html](http://www.agrinews.com/news/iowa_news/lawmakers-farmers-disappointed-by-epa-s-volume-obligation-levels-for/article_48dca24e-d08f-507b-8cd4-72b31919992b.html)

**Watchdog.org – New EPA mandate hurts poor without reducing emissions – 12/8/15** - As global leaders met in Paris at the Climate Change Conference to discuss the challenges of global warming, the Environmental Protection Agency released new requirements for the Renewable Fuel Standard, for 2014 to 2016. The agency requires that 18.11 billion gallons of renewable fuel be mixed with America's gas supply. <http://watchdog.org/250678/new-epa-mandate-hurts-poor-without-reducing-emissions/>

**Water Technology Online – Smarter hydraulic fracturing for better water management – 12/8/15** - To the crew of the International Space Station 220 miles above Earth, it looks like the U.S. has added a mammoth new city aglow at night near the Canadian border. Yet just six years ago, this area several hundred miles west of the Great Lakes was virtually dark. How could this be?

<http://www.watertechonline.com/smarter-hydraulic-fracturing-for-better-water-management/>

**Memphis (Mo.) Democrat – USDA Talks Funding Options With City Council For Wastewater System Overhaul – 12/8/15** - With looming changes in the Missouri Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) permitting process for municipal wastewater treatment systems, the Memphis City Council met Thursday with a representative of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to discuss funding options for public works. <http://www.memphisdemocrat.com/usda-talks-funding-options-with-city-council-for-wastewater-system-overhaul/>

**Sedalia (Mo.) Democrat – Sewer relief project nears completion – 12/8/15** - The Sedalia City Council heard another quarterly update Monday night on the ongoing sewer relief project from Olsson Associates, and representatives said they hoped the next quarter's report would be that construction is complete. <http://sedaliademocrat.com/news/6962/sewer-relief-project-nears-completion>

**Fort Madison (Iowa) Daily Democrat – Donnellson Completes Upgrade to Sewage Treatment Plant – 12/8/15** - The engineering firm of French-Reneker-Associates, Inc. of Fairfield, working with the City of Donnellson, has completed a project to upgrade the City's sewage treatment plant to meet Iowa Department of Natural Resources Standards. [http://www.dailydem.com/news/article\\_0c28f8ae-9dcc-11e5-8833-fba86eba1f95.html](http://www.dailydem.com/news/article_0c28f8ae-9dcc-11e5-8833-fba86eba1f95.html)

**Farmers Advance – USDA launches new conservation effort to aid monarch butterflies – 12/8/15** - U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced Nov. 12 a new conservation effort to help agricultural producers provide food and habitat for monarch butterflies in the Midwest and southern Great Plains. This targeted 10-state effort by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will invest \$4 million in 2016 to help combat the iconic species' decline.

<http://www.farmersadvance.com/story/news/2015/12/08/usda-launches-new-conservation-effort-to-aid-monarch-butterflies/76976764/>

**Des Moines Register – Baaken pipeline hearing ends; decision awaited – 12/8/15** – The Iowa Utilities Board has wrapped up proceedings on a state permit to construct a crude oil pipeline through 18 Iowa counties, although a final decision isn't expected until early February.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2015/12/08/bakken-pipeline-hearing-ends-decision-awaited/77007770/?from=global&sessionKey=&autologin=>

**KIWA Radio, Sheldon, Iowa – DNR to hold Baaken public meeting – 12/8/15** - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has scheduled a public meeting for December 16th to discuss the request of Dakota Access for a permit to cross public land so the company can build its Baaken oil pipeline. That's the pipeline that would pass through portions of Lyon, Sioux and O'Brien counties here in northwest Iowa.

<http://kiwaradio.com/local-news/dnr-to-hold-baaken-public-meeting/>

**KCRG Channel 9, Cedar Rapids, Iowa – Company details asbestos removal process following DNR report – 12/8/15** - The Cedar Rapids Community School District and the company the district hired to remove asbestos could face some trouble after a new report came out.

<http://www.kcrg.com/content/news/Company-details-asbestos-removal-process-following-DNR-report-361167841.html>

**KGAN Channel 2, Cedar Rapids, Iowa – Possible asbestos exposure at CR Wash. – 12/8/15** - A state report says some students and staff may have been exposed to asbestos during renovations at Washington High School in Cedar Rapids last school year. <http://www.cbs2iowa.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/Possible-Asbestos-Exposure-at-CR-Wash--240123.shtml>

**Iowa Public Radio – India to U.S.: Cut back on your consumption – 12/9/15** - Climate negotiators in Paris are wrangling over "country commitments," "caps" and "cuts" in greenhouse gases. Some environmentalists, however, argue that the most important "c" word is missing: consumption. In India, they say little will change unless fossil-fuel-reliant rich countries moderate how they consume energy.

<http://iowapublicradio.org/post/india-us-cut-back-your-consumption>

**The Daily Caller – Environmentalists Put Monsanto On Trial For Crimes Against Nature – 12/8/15** - Environmental and anti-GMO groups announced they're putting Monsanto on trial for "crimes against nature and humanity" or "ecocide" in The Hague, Netherlands, according to a Sunday article in an environmentalist publication.. <http://dailycaller.com/2015/12/08/environmentalists-put-monsanto-on-trial-for-crimes-against-nature/>

**PBS News Hour – Don't blame grandma yet, but your asthma may be her fault – 12/9/15** - It's natural to wonder if your environment is changing you. It's no secret that smoking and pesticides are bad for your lungs and that exercise is good for your heart. But these things may actually change the function of our genes in ways that can be passed on to our children and grandchildren.

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/history-of-epigenetics-asthma/>

**Coachella Valley Independent – Who killed Keystone? An unusual coalition helped lead to Obama's rejection of the proposed pipeline – 12/8/15** - On Earth Day 2014, a group of farmers, ranchers and Native Americans who live along the route of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline marched and rode horseback through Washington, D.C., wearing cowboy hats and feather headdresses. On the National Mall, they erected tipis and held ceremonies; a couple of days later, they gave a hand-painted

tipi to the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, in President Barack Obama's honor.  
<http://www.cvindependent.com/index.php/en-US/news/environment/item/2712-who-killed-keystone-an-unusual-coalition-helped-lead-to-obama-s-rejection-of-the-proposed-pipeline>

**Bloomberg BNA – Sixth Circuit Hears Oral Arguments on Clean Water Rule – 12/9/15** - Predicting that judicial authority over a rule seeking to refine the reach of the Clean Water Act will ultimately be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit heard oral arguments Dec. 8 on whether it is the appropriate venue to hear challenges to the rule.  
<http://www.bna.com/sixth-circuit-hears-n57982064762/>

## **Chris Whitley**

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